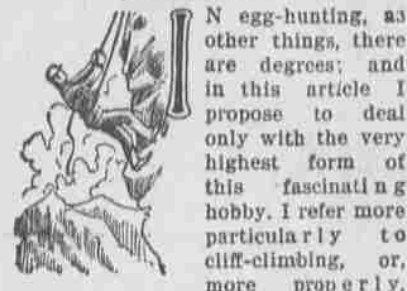


## CLIMBING THE CLIFFS.

AN ADVENTUROUS SPORT THAT CALLS FOR NERVE.

Let Down Steep and Inaccessible Crags by Rope—The Implements Required—A Woman Walking Backward Down a Cliff.

(London Letter.)



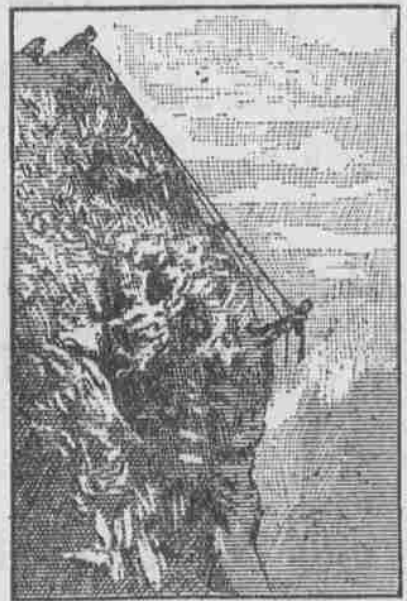
N egg-hunting, as other things, there are degrees; and in this article I propose to deal only with the very highest form of this fascinating hobby. I refer more particularly to cliff-climbing, or, more properly, cliff-descending, in search of eggs.

Among the most distinguished adepts in this difficult and perilous art is—appropriately enough—one of the most popular officers in the British army—Lieutenant-Colonel Willoughby-Verner, of the Rifle Brigade, who is, at this moment, a professor of military science at Sandhurst.

While stationed at Gibraltar, between 1874 and 1880, Colonel Verner had splendid opportunities for indulging his favorite pastime. "The lowest—as to situation—and also the very first eagle's nest I ever took, was that of an Imperial eagle—a tree-nesting species. This nest was in a stunted tree, only 20 feet high, in the middle of an almost impenetrable thicket, which was surrounded by a large swamp covered with reeds 10 feet high." Here the great bird relied for security on the solitude of the swamp, and the difficulty of access to the tree. Certainly, Colonel Verner would never have reached that nest were it not for the assistance rendered by a couple of bare-legged Spanish leech-catchers, who beat down the reeds for him with their poles. The gallant Colonel's highest nest (as compared with the lowest, mentioned above) was that of a golden eagle, which took up its abode in a dizzy crag, 2800 feet above Jimena, in Andalusia.

Asked as to the details of his cliff-climbing outfit, Colonel Verner said: "I take with me 180 feet of 1-inch Alpine rope; 50 feet of 2-inch rope for 'bad' places; a ball of strong twine with lead weight attached, for communicating up or down; a nest of tin boxes for eggs, carried in a loong creel; field-glasses, dagger, canvas belt (especially made for me by a blue-jacket); water-bottle and provisions; a hand camera, and a set of egg-blowing instruments packed in a case."

To these may be added a 28 foot rope of pure silk, weighing but a few ounces, yet capable of supporting two men. This rope was given to the Colonel by the late Crown Prince Rudolf of Austria, who had used it himself whilst chamois-hunting in the Tyrol. One of our illustrations shows in quite a startling manner the frightful positions in which cliff-climbers quite commonly find themselves. This daring man is Mr. C. Kearton, of Elstree, Herts. I asked Mr. Kearton to describe his method of making a descent, and this is what he said: "Perhaps it would be better, first of all, if I said a word or two about that photo. In it I am depicted climbing down a cliff on the south coast of Ireland. I am about fifty feet down, and the cliff was nearly 300 feet above the sea. The photo was taken by a naturalist friend. "Before starting on a cliff-climbing expedition," pursued Mr. Kearton, "I first procure a couple of ropes about the thickness of one's thumb, and in length from 200 feet to 300 feet. Next a crowbar, which I fix firmly in the ground some distance from the edge of the cliff. One rope (the guide rope) is securely tied to this crowbar, and then held by the man who is letting me down. Attached to the end are three loops, which are placed round my body and under my legs to prevent me from falling out. With the camera slung over my back, and the guide-



WALKING BACKWARDS.

rope in my hand, I deliberately walk backwards over the brink of the cliff, the rope being controlled by a man who unwinds it at given signals. On firing my revolver, the situation of a nest is at once revealed by the sudden flight of the birds. As I am lowered, I carefully dislodge with my feet every loose bit of rock with my reach, so as to avoid a possible shower of rubble and stones (the result of contact with the rope) when below. This is vitally important. At will, I can sit in the girth or sling. As the sound of one's voice is lost when at a depth down the cliff of about fifty feet, another man is stationed at a point where I can see him; and it is through his agency that the man at the crowbar receives my signals. The nest to be photographed may be found on a fair-

ly accessible ledge, in which case the manipulation of the camera is comparatively easy; but where it is built on a projecting stone or small edge, tremendous difficulties have to be overcome. In such cases two legs of the camera must rest on my body, most conveniently in the belt round my waist. Having fixed up the apparatus I proceed to focus the object; this is the most difficult task of all, and one which may last five minutes or an hour, or even longer still, according to circumstances. Then it frequently happens that when everything is ready for the exposure, one of my legs will slip or my body sway in an aggravating manner, so that the nest will have to be re-focused.

"Where a recess in the cliff is reached in descending or ascending by the ropes, one's body, being insulated, begins to rotate like a goose on a roasting-jack; and the sensation of twirling round in mid-air at the end of a rope, with the very real possibility of a shower of dislodged stones from above, and—in the event of an accident—certain death beneath, is anything but pleasant. Remember, one's life is literally in the hands of the man at the crowbar. On one occasion, just as I was disappearing over the cliff, this responsible person got joking with his companion, the signal man, and he let the coil of rope slip up to the top of the crowbar. A moment more and it would have slipped off altogether, but a horrified yell from me brought the careless fellow to some sense of duty, just in time to avoid a catastrophe."

Another illustration shows the taking of a raven's nest at Trevent, Pembrokeshire. This nest was placed in a deep hollow, which is seen a little below the climber (Mr. C. D. Head). The great cliffs at this point are unusually steep and lofty, this one in particular projecting sharply from the main line of cliffs, and having a ragging sea on either side. To reach the spot where the rope attendant is seen



TAKING RAVEN'S NEST AT TREVENT.

standing, a narrow saddle-shaped ridge of treacherous rock and soil had to be crossed, and this was barely two feet wide, so that passing over it was no pleasant task, especially when burdened with steel crowbars, ropes, and other impedimenta.

The Japanese Alps. The "Japanese Alps" in altitude are only about two-thirds that of the Swiss mountains, but the magnificent forests which clothe their mighty flanks and the rich and picturesque valleys which lie at their feet give them an individuality and charm which are not surpassed by any other mountain region of the world. Owing to the fact that travel among them is of the roughest description, these wild fastnesses have hitherto remained a "charmed circle within a charmed circle." In variety, nothing is wanting, from the richness of sub-tropical vegetation to Alpine snows. The Japanese, as well as the Europeans, have their climbing clubs, and make much more elaborate arrangements for the comfort and convenience of their members than the Swiss or British clubs. They have a system of huts all along their mountain routes, with porters for carrying tired climbers or women. It will be seen from this that the ascent of most of the peaks is attended with little discomfort and almost no danger. Several of the peaks have a peculiar interest. They are regarded as sacred, and the foreign traveler who climbs there meets all sorts of pilgrims, and witnesses the most curious of ceremonies. The two most sacred mountains are the famous Fujiyama, which appears so often in the background of Japanese pictures, and Ontake.

Rain as a Rock Destroying Agent. Rain is one of the most active rock-destroying agents, acting upon it both chemically and mechanically. It dissolves out the soluble part and makes the insoluble part crumble; and mechanically these crumbling parts are washed off so that the higher peak above where the forests grow are always bare, naked rocks; because the continual wash of the rain and the force of the winds sweep away all of the debris; consequently the naked rock is always exposed to rapid disintegration by frost, rain, wind, and changes of temperature.

Burmese Ceremonies. Two ceremonies in Burmah mark when childhood stops and manhood or womanhood begins. The boys have their legs tattooed in brilliant blue and red patterns, and the girls their ears bored. The boring of the girls' ears is commenced with a needle, and the puncture is gradually increased until the tip of the finger can be introduced.

## FOR WOMAN AND HOME

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO MAIDS AND MATRONS.

Denmark Is Said to Be the Paradise for Old Maids—Stockings in Gay Designs for Summer—Notes of the Fashions.



The Old Story. HEY stood beside the fence that ran between their fathers' farms; He leaned upon the topmost rail. His strong and brawny arms. Her shoulder just came up to them; A slender maid was she; Yet that she ruled that stalwart youth Was very plain to see.

Ah! earnestly he spoke to her; The burning words he said. She seemed to hear and heed, and yet She lifted not her head; For on some daisies in her hand Her eyes were fixed, and these She plucked to pieces one by one And cast upon the breeze. As the last leaf she plucked and flung It on the wind, she turned Her eyes to his and saw the love Within their depths that burned. And then at last she seemed to cast All doubt, all fear aside; Her love she did confess, and gave Her troth to be his bride. Over the fence he lightly leapt, And clasped her to his breast, And to her cheek that brightly burned, His glowing lips he pressed. Then, as the sunset's rosy glow, Brightened the peaceful land, With happy hearts toward her home They wandered hand in hand.

Brilliance of color and extravagance of design are the rule in the stockings which the arbitrary fashion of the coming spring will seek to enforce upon its favorites. The quiet and demure hose which but a short time since were preferred by women of taste have been relegated to the obscurity of the unused bureau drawer, and their successors are as flamboyant as the costumes with which they will be worn. Nothing more astonishing in the way of hosiery has been seen in a long time than those contained in a group of interesting patterns just made ready for a young society woman. One of the most effective was a pattern of dark stars on a light ground. The stocking was of daintiest white silk,



TULLE DRESS.

Her father in the doorway stood As they came up the walk, Indifferent to all around, Absorbed in sweetest talk. He knew what suit his neighbor's son Would make to him and smiled. For ever had he wished that he Should wed his darling child. And when the young man, stammering, asked If he might wed the maid, The old man in her lover's hand His daughter's gently laid. The kindly words he uttered filled With joy the lover's heart, And to each other pledged two lives That only death could part.

Paradise for Old Maids. Old maids must claim the little kingdom of Denmark for their Paradise, for they are insured there. Any girl who feels that there is a likelihood of her being laid on the shelf may make provision whereby she can, at the age of 40, be put in the spinster class for good and receive weekly benefits. These benefits, of course, are in cash. Some of the old maids might prefer to have it so that, instead of money, they would have a nice, well-trained bachelor call twice a week and stay and be entertaining. Some enterprising American ought to get up such a scheme. There are good-looking bachelors enough to get up a corps of woosers. Old maids in the company would have a man call on them, say twice a week, and listen while they played on the piano and sang their favorite senti-

mental song. He would say nice things about the playing and the singing and the singer. Neither would he kick the cat that would be sure to be prowling about. Many an old maid would be able to retain her self-respect if she could make some such provision. And think, too, of the tempers it would keep from souring! Old maids are said to have awful tempers, and this course of treatment would be certain to sweeten them.

Prussian Puffs. Cream two ounces of butter, adding three tablespoonfuls of sugar and the yolks of three eggs, then by degrees add three teaspoonfuls of milk and the same of flour, a saltspoonful of salt, and when all is mixed stir in the stiffly-beaten whites of three eggs flavored with vanilla. Half fill some greased teacups with the batter and bake for twenty minutes in a quick oven. Serve immediately with sweet sauce.

Stockings in Gay Designs. Brilliance of color and extravagance of design are the rule in the stockings which the arbitrary fashion of the coming spring will seek to enforce upon its favorites. The quiet and demure hose which but a short time since were preferred by women of taste have been relegated to the obscurity of the unused bureau drawer, and their successors are as flamboyant as the costumes with which they will be worn. Nothing more astonishing in the way of hosiery has been seen in a long time than those contained in a group of interesting patterns just made ready for a young society woman. One of the most effective was a pattern of dark stars on a light ground. The stocking was of daintiest white silk,



TULLE DRESS.

the stars in deep black. They were designed to be worn with a chic spring costume of black and white silk, with which they will accord strikingly. Another effective design gave a berbated effect to the stocking of dark red silk, the stripe of white extending from ankle to top. A third, which is for wear with a dainty evening slipper, was a combination of black and yellow, in an altogether new design.

What Women Are Doing. The queerest fad on record is that of Miss Dell Ten Eyck of Worcester, Mass., who amuses herself by capturing and taming all sorts of sea-monstroities. She has jaws of devil fish and says she really enjoys their presence. Cuban women of the families of the insurgents are inculcating what they consider right ideas in the minds of their children. A primer has just been printed in Cuba setting forth revolutionary sentiments in an attractive manner. In France women have a monopoly on bookkeeping in restaurants and cafes. They are well paid and have few expenses, their meals being furnished by the restaurant and a plain black dress being all that is required in the way of toilet during working hours.

## WHAT THE MINE BOSS KNOWS.

Nowadays a Colliery Manager Must Have a Smattering of the Sciences.

The subjects, in addition to the three R's, which intending colliery managers should endeavor to get a thorough knowledge of, says Science and Art in Training, are as follows: 1. Geology, which gives them a knowledge of the rocks forming the earth and the formations in which coal is found; also, which interrupt the continuation of coal seams. 2. Boring and sinking, a knowledge of which is required in opening new royalties and in searching for coal seams that have been disclosed by faults, etc. 3. The practical working of mines, which enables them to lay out a mine on the most advantageous systems of working, hauling and drainage. 4. Principles of mechanics, which enables them to know the strength of beams, girders, ropes and chains required for different kinds of work; also the horse power of engines required for winding, hauling and pumping certain quantities of water. 5. Steam, compressed air by electricity; the properties of steam and the principles of the steam engine enable them to use steam economically and to the best advantage and to superintend the erection of engines and be a help to them in purchasing new engines; compressed air, which enables them to know the advantage of it over steam for driving, drilling and coal-cutting machines; electricity, so that they may know something of the advantages of electric signaling and lighting and of the transmission of power for long distances. 6. Mine ventilation, gases, coal dust, lighting of mines, explosives and blasting; a thorough knowledge of these, if properly carried out, insures the safe working of a mine and will considerably reduce the causes of explosions. 7. Surveying, because the manager is responsible for the plans to be produced to the inspector and for his workings trespassing into other royalties and for leaving sufficient coal under surface erections, etc. 8. The coal mines regulation act, which should be well understood to comply with the act in all its details for safety. 9. And last, but not least, he must study mankind, so as to be able to deal properly with and manage men of all shades of opinion.

## GREAT PROBLEM FOR WOMEN.

It Can Be Solved If Women Will Work Together.

Discussing the solution of "Women's Most Vexing Problem"—domestic service—in the Ladies' Home Journal, Edward W. Bok insists that, "first of all, women must drop a lot of outside problems with which they are at present grappling, but which, after all, only indirectly concern them. Important they may be, in a general sense, but not one-hundredth part as important as is this problem which is exclusively theirs. Foreign missions, the ballot, the higher education of women, good government, the amelioration of the poor—it will be well enough for women to labor for all these causes when their own more immediate problems are settled. The servant-girl problem is far more important at present than any of these. Other problems are general in their effects: this one strikes at the very heart of the American home. We do not begin to realize how intimately associated is this problem with our happiness. It concerns every man, woman and child. But true charity begins at home, and we have heathens in a few of our kitchens who need civilization and educational influences just as much as do the natives of India's coral strand. I have nothing to say against woman's work in foreign missionary societies, good government clubs, or charity organizations of whatever sort. But I do say this: that scores of women are employing efforts in those directions which ought to be employed in the solution of matters nearer home. Women can solve this domestic problem if they will. But they must get together and work unitedly. If they do I venture to say that in a year or two there will be no such thing as the servant-girl problem, for it will have been solved."

## WHIPPING POST IN BOSTON.

Even Women Were Not Spared Public Chastisement.

Alice Morse Earle, in an article on "Punishments of Bygone Days," in the Chap-Book, after giving John Taylor the Water Poet's rhymed description of corporal punishment in London, explains how rapidly flogging came into use in Boston. The whipping post was speedily in full force in Boston. At the session of the court held Nov. 30, 1630, one man was sentenced to be whipped for stealing a loaf of bread, another for shooting fowl on the Sabbath, another for swearing, another for leaving a boat "without a pilot." Then we read of John Pense that for "stryking his mother and deryding her he shalbe whipt." Lying, swearing, taking false toll, perjury, selling rum to the Indians—all were punished by whipping. Pious regard for the Sabbath was fiercely upheld by the support of the whipping post. In 1643 Roger Scott, for "repeated sleeping on the Lord's day" and for striking the person who waked him from his godless slumber, was sentenced to be severely whipped. Women were not spared public chastisement. "The gift of prophecy" was at once subdued in Boston by lashes, as was unwomanly carriage.

## It Happens Every Day There.

Brown—Do you really think there's anything in the theosophical theory that people die and come to life again? Robinson—Certainly. Don't you read the news from Cuba?—New York World.

## THE STATE OF KANSAS.

From a circular recently issued by the Kansas State Temperance union: "The Brewers' Journal of New York, Chicago and London is the official organ of the United States Brewers' association, the Ala. Brewers' association, and the New York State Brewers' and Malterers' association. In its issue of January 1, 1897, it publishes, as a supplement, a table compiled expressly for the paper, giving the sales of beer for each state of the union for each of the ten years ending with June 30, 1896. It is shown that in the license states the sales of beer for 1896 have increased 2,355,064 barrels over the year before, while in the same time in the prohibition states the sales of beer have actually decreased 368 barrels. Moreover, it is shown that in prohibition Kansas the sales of beer for 1896 were 6,019 barrels, while in high license Nebraska, with over 300,000 less population, the sales of beer for 1896 were 16,317 barrels, or more than twenty-six times as much.

During a trip over the Santa Fe railroad as far west as Great Bend, last week, the editor of the Kansas Farmer had an eye on growing wheat as the object of his chief interest. The impression is irresistible that a considerably smaller acreage has been sown than heretofore. The stand is variable. On early-plowed lands a good stand prevails. On late plowings and on stubble sowings the stand is medium to poor and in some cases none at all. To the careful observer the prospect averages better than at this time last year, and the writer will be surprised if the territory traversed does not harvest a larger aggregate this year than last.

The celebrated Ingalls calf case is again in the district court at Atchison. Several years ago one Joe Bowen placed a calf in a pasture owned by John J. Ingalls. A spring had been dug out in this pasture by one Edward Eiche, who leased the pasture. The calf fell into the spring and drowned. Bowen sued Ingalls for the value of the calf. After a trial or two the court freed Ingalls from any responsibility and the suit was then transferred to Eiche. It has had three trials in the district court, with a hung jury each time, and several trials in the justice court. The costs are now great enough to buy a big herd of calves.

Says the Garden City Imprint: Emigrants going East or West are pulling through here almost every day, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that each party is "cussing" the section of country from whence they came, and it is not unlikely that many of these same emigrants will pass each other next spring traveling in exactly the opposite direction they are going now, and each will be "cussing" the country from whence they came.

Secretary F. D. Coburn of the state board of agriculture has issued a bulletin compiled from reports of correspondents, mainly wheat-growers and millers, in nearly every neighborhood in Kansas, giving the conditions of growing wheat on April 20. Rating a vigorous, satisfactory condition of growth at 100, Secretary Coburn finds the average condition for the entire state to be 80.

There is only one paper mill running in Kansas and that is the mill in Lawrence. Several were built, but they did not have a long felt want to fill, and are idle now. There is not enough wrapping paper used in Kansas to keep one mill busy. The mill here has to depend upon three states for its trade. We over-boomed in Kansas and no mistake, planting two industries, where one could not legitimately live.—Lawrence World.

The last item written by Sol Miller for the Troy Chief was grimly suggestive of his own impending fate. It reads as follows: "What has become of the old-fashioned man who used to ride into town from the country on horseback, carrying a neatly trimmed cornstalk which everybody knew was a sign that somebody was dead, and he was bringing in a measure for the coffin?"

Charley Martin is not recovering very rapidly from the injuries he received while on a railroad train going into Washington. It became necessary to break and reset his injured arm a few days ago, and he is said to be in great pain and much weakened from his suffering.

The apple carnival in Leavenworth will be stretched out to last a week next fall, in honor of the G. A. R. reunion to be held there.

Work has been commenced on the new Federal prison at Fort Leavenworth. It will be done by 470 convicts under the direction of Warden French. In the foundation will be put 13,000 barrels of cement, 40,000 barrels of sand and 60,000 yards of concrete. An excavation of 181,000 cubic yards will be necessary.

Kansas has about 50,000,000 bushels of wheat ready for the market and more growing. The upward plunge of wheat on the market last week meant \$2,000,000 to Kansas farmers to say nothing of what millions may yet be in prospect. Eureka Herald: There is a determined struggle now being waged between Topeka and Wichita as to which shall lead in the number of divorce actions, the score standing 86 to 83, but as there is a ward in Wichita not yet heard from, the latter city has hopes.

Reports from Southern Kansas and Oklahoma indicate the destruction of thousands of acres of fine wheat by wind storm. Wherever there was sand it cut the wheat as effectively as if a mowing machine had been run over it. A woman to whom Quantrell was engaged lives in Douglas county. They were school children together and lovers. She has a story to tell and she will tell it some time.

There are no funds in possession of the United States marshal to pay witnesses and jurors, hence the Fort Scott term of the United States district court has been continued from the first Monday in May to the fourth Monday in May.

A new kind of donation party has been invented in Southern Kansas. At Caldwell, the other day, the entire Methodist congregation went down to the parsonage and dug the preacher a cyclone cellar.

Colonel A. R. Green of Kansas, inspector of the survey corps of general and district land offices, has been reinstated in that office by the secretary of the interior.